Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives :

The interest with which the people of the Republic anticipate the assembling of Congress, and the fulfilment, on that occasion, of the duty imposed upon a new President, is one of the best evidences of their capacity to realize the hopes of the founders of a political system at once complex and symmetrical. While the different branches of the Government are, to a certain extent, independent of each other, the duties of all alike have direct reference to the source of power. Fortunately, under this system, no man is so high, and none so humble, in the scale of public station, as to escape from the scrutiny, or to be exempt from the responsibility, which all official functions imply.

Upon the justice and intelligence of the masses, in Government thus organized, is the sole reliance of the Confederacy, and the only security for honest and earnest devotion to its interests, against the usurpations and encroachments of power on the one hand and the assaults of personal ambition on the other.

The interest of which I have spoken is inseparable from an inquiring, self-governing community, but stimulated, doubtless, at the present time, by the unsettled condition of our relations with several foreign Powers: by the new obligations resulting from a sudden extension of the field of enterprise; by the spirit with which that field has been entered, and the amazing energy with which its resources for meeting the demands of humanity have been developed.

Although disease, assuming at one time the character istics of a wide-spread and devastating pestilence, has left its sad traces upon some portions of our country, we have still the most abundant cause for reverent thankfulness to God for an accumulation of signal mercies showered upon us as a nation. It is well that a consciousness of rapid advancement and increasing strength be habitually associated with an abiding sense of dependence upon Him who holds in his hands the destiny of men and

Recognising the wisdom of the broad principle of abso lute religious toleration proclaimed in our fundamental law, and rejoicing in the benign influence which it has exerted upon our social and political condition, I should shrink from a clear duty did I fail to express my deepest conviction that we can place no secure reliance upon any apparent progress, if it be not sustained by national integrity, resting upon the great truths affirmed and illustrated by divine revelation. In the midst of our sorrow for the afflicted and suffering, it has been consoling to see how promptly disaster made true neighbors of districts and cities separated widely from each other, and cheering to watch the strength of that common bond of brotherhood which unites all hearts, in all parts of this Union, when danger threatens from abroad or calamity impends over us at home.

Our diplomatic relations with Foreign Powers have undergone no essential change since the adjournment of the last Congress. With some of them questions of a disturbing character are still pending, but there are good reasons to believe that these may all be amicably adjusted.

For some years past Great Britain has so construed the first article of the convention of the 20th of April, 1818, in regard to the fisheries on the northeastern coast, as to exclude our citizens from some of the fishing grounds, to which they freely resorted for nearly a quarter of a century subsequent to the date of that treaty. The United States have never acquiesced in this construction, but have always claimed for their fishermen all the rights which they had so long enjoyed without molestation. With a view to remove all difficulties on the subject, to extend the rights of our fishermen beyond the limits fixed by the convention of 1818, and to regulate trade between the United States and the British North American provinces, a negotiation has been opened, with a fair prospect of a favorable result. To protect our fishermen in the enjoyment of their rights, and prevent collision between them and British fishermen. I deemed it expedient to station a naval force in that quarter during the fishing

Embarrassing questions have also arisen between the two Governments in regard to Central America. Great enlightened views it is hoped that Brazil will conform her the condition of the Indian tribes in the interior of the Britain has proposed to settle them by an amicable arrangement, and our Minister at London is instructed to enter into negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims of our citizen against Great Britain, and those of British subjects against the United States, organized under the convention of the 8th of February last, is now sitting in London for the transaction of business.

It is in many respects desirable that the boundary line between the United States and the British provinces in the northwest, as designated in the convention of the 15th of June, 1846, and especially that part which separates the Territory of Washington from the British possessions on the north, should be traced and marked. I therefore present the subject to your notice

With France our relations continue on the most friendly footing. The extensive commerce between the United States and that country might, it is conceived, be released from some unnecessary restrictions, to the mutual advan tage of both parties. With a view to this object some progress has been made in negotiating a treaty of comerce and navigation.
Independently of our valuable trade with Spain, we have

important political relations with her, growing out of our neighborhood to the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. I am happy to amounce that since the last Congress no attempts have been made, by unauthorized expedition within the United States, against either of those colonies. Should any movement be manifested within our limits, all the means at my command will be vigorously exerted t repress it. several annoying occurrences have taken place a

Havana, or in the vicinity of the Island of Cuba, be tween our citizens and the Spanish authorities. Considering the proximity of that Island to our shores-lying as it does in the track of trade between some of our rincipal cities-and the suspicious vigilance with which foreign intercourse, particularly that with the United States, is there guarded, a repetition of such occurrences may well be apprehended. As no diplomatic intercourse is allowed between our Consul at Havana and the Captain General of Cuba, ready explanations cannot be made, or prompt redress afforded, where injury has resulted. All complaint on the part of our citizens, under the present arrangement, must be, in the first place, presented to this Government, and then referred to Spain. Spain again refers it to her local authorities in Cuba for investigation, and postpones an answer till she has heard se authorities. To avoid these irritating and vexatious delays a proposition has been made to provide for a direct appeal for redress to the Captain General, by for a direct appeal for redress to the Captain General, by our Consul, in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens. Hitherto the Government of Spain has declined to enter into any such arrangement. This course on her part is deeply regretted; for, without some arrangement of this kind the good understanding between the two countries may be exposed to occasional interruption. Our Minister at Madrid is instructed to renew the proposition, and t press it again upon the consideration of her Catholic Majesty's Government.

or several years Spain has been calling the attention of this Government to a claim for losses by some of her subjects in the case of the schooner Amistad. This claim is believed to rest on the obligations imposed by our existing treaty with that country. Its justice was admitted, in our diplomatic correspondence with the Spanish Government, as early as March, 1847; and one of my produces. predecessors, in his annual message of that year, re-commended that provision should be made for its pay ment. In January last it was again submitted to gress by the Executive. It has received a favorable consideration by committees of both branches, but as yet there has been no final action upon it. I conceive tha good faith requires its prompt adjustment, and I present

t to your early and favorable consideration. Martin Koszta, a Hungarian by birth, came to this country in 1850, and declared his intention, in due form of law, to become a citizen of the United States. remaining here nearly two years, he visited Turkey. While at Smyrna he was forcibly seized, taken on board an Austrian brig of war, then lying in the harbor of that place, and there confined in irons, with the avowed design to take him into the dominions of Austria. Our Consul at Smyrna and Legation at Constantinople interposed for his release, but their efforts were ineffectual. While thus imprisoned, Commander Ingraham, with the United States ship-of-war St. Louis, arrived at Smyrna, and, after in-

sures for his release. Under an arrangement between the agents of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people and appropriated to specific objects by Content of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the people and the custody of the French Consul General at the custody of the F erred to the custody of the French Consul General at Smyrna, there to remain until he should be disposed of by the mutual agreement of the Consuls of the respective Governments at that place. Pursuant to that agreement, he has been released, and is now in the United States. The Emperor of Austria has made the conduct of our officers who took part in this transaction a subject of grave mplaint. Regarding Koszta as still his subject, and claiming a right to seize him within the limits of the Furkish Empire, he has demanded of this Government its ensent to the surrender of the prisoner, a disavowal of the acts of its agents and satisfaction for the alleged outage. After a careful consideration of the case I came to the conclusion that Koszta was seized without legal authority at Smyrna; that he was wrongfully detained on board of the Austrian brig of war; that, at the time of his seizure, he was clothed with the nationality of the United States; and that the acts of our officers, under the circumstances of the case, were justifiable; and their conduct has been fully approved by me, and a compliance with the several demands of the Emperor of Austria has been dealined. been declined.

For a more full account of this transaction, and my views in regard to it, I refer to the correspondence be-tween the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria and the Secretary of State, which is herewith transmitted. The principles and policy therein maintained on the part of the United States will, whenever a proper occasion occurs, be applied and enforced.

The condition of China, at this time, renders it probable that some important changes will occur in that vast Empire which will lead to a more unrestricted intercourse with it. The Commissioner to that country, who has been recently appointed, is instructed to avail himself of all occasions to open and extend our commercial relations, not only with the Empire of China, but with other Asiatic

In 1852 an expedition was sent to Japan, under the command of Commodore Perry, for the purpose of open-ing commercial intercourse with that empire. Intelli-gence has been received of his arrival there, and of his having made known to the Emperor of Japan the object of his visit; but it is not yet ascertained how far the Emperor will be disposed to abandon his restrictive policy, and open that populous country to a commercial inter-course with the United States.

It has been my earnest desire to maintain friendly intercourse with the Governments upon this continent, and to aid them in preserving good understanding among themselves. With Mexico a dispute has arisen as to the true boundary line between our territory of New Mexico and the Mexican State of Chihuahua. A former Commissioner of the United States, employed in running that line, pursuant to the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, made a serious mistake in determining the initial point on the Rio Grande; but, inasmuch as his decision was clearly a departure from the directions for tracing the boundary ontained in that treaty, and was not concurred in by the Surveyor appointed on the part of the United States, whose concurrence was necessary to give validity to that decision, this Government is not concluded thereby; but that of Mexico takes a different view of the subject.

There are also other questions of considerable magnide pending between the two Republics. Our Minister in Mexico has ample instructions to adjust them. Negotiations have been opened, but sufficient progress has not een made therein to enable me to speak of the probable result. Impressed with the importance of maintaining amicable relations with that republic, and of yielding with liberality to all her just claims, it is reasonable to expect that an arrangement mutually satisfactory to both countries may be concluded, and a lasting friendship be-

ween them confirmed and perpetuated.

Congress having provided for a full mission to the States of Central America, a Minister was sent thither in July last. As yet he has had time to visit only one of hese States, (Nicaragua,) where he was received in the most friendly manner. It is hoped that his presence and good offices will have a benign effect in composing the issensions which prevail among them, and in establishing still more intimate and friendly relations between hem respectively, and between each of them and the United States. Considering the vast regions of this continent, and the

number of States which would be made accessible by the free navigation of the river Amazon, particular atte has been given to this subject. Brazil, through whose territories it passes into the ocean, has hitherto persisted in a policy so restrictive in regard to the use of this river obstruct, and nearly exclude, foreign commercial intercourse with the States which lie upon its tributaries and upper branches. Our Minister to that country is instructed to obtain a relaxation of that policy, and to use his efforts to induce the Brazilian Government to open to common use, under proper safeguards, this great natural highway for international trade. Several of the South secure the free navigation of the Amazon, and it is reaonable to expect their co-operation in the measure. As ree use of a river which traverses so many States and | munications of the Secretaries of War and the Interior. so large a part of the continent. I am happy to inform ject among others have been negotiated with these Gov-

A new branch of commerce, important to the agricultural interests of the United States, has, within a few years past, been opened with Peru. Notwithstanding the inexhaustible deposites of guano upon the islands of that country, considerable difficulties are experienced in obtaining the requisite supply. Measures have been taken to remove these difficulties, and to secure a more abundant importation of the article. Unfortunately, there has been a serious collision between our citizens who have resorted to the Chincha islands for it and the Peruvian authorities stationed there. Redress for the outrages committed by the latter was promptly demanded by our Minister at Lima. This subject is now under consideration, and there is reason to believe that Peru is disposed to offer adequate indemnity to the aggrieved parties.

We are thus not only at peace with all foreign countries, but, in regard to political affairs, are exempt from any cause of serious disquietude in our domestic re-

The controversies which have agitated the country heretofore are passing away with the causes which produced them and the passions which they had awakened; or, if any trace of them remains, it may be reasonably hoped that it will only be perceived in the zealous rivalry of all good citizens to testify their respect for the rights of the States, their devotion to the Union, and their comnon determination that each one of the States, its insticutions, its welfare, and its domestic peace, shall be held alike secure under the sacred megis of the constitution.

This new league of amity and of mutual confidence and upport, into which the people of the Republic have enered, happily affords inducement and opportunity for the adoption of a more comprehensive and unembarrassed line of policy and action as to the great material inteests of the country, whether regarded in themselves or connexion with the powers of the civilized world.

The United States have continued gradually and steadily to expand, through acquisitions of territory, which, how much soever some of them may have been questioned, are now universally seen and admitted to have been wise in policy, just in character, and a great element in the advancement of our country, and, with it, of the human race, in freedom, in prosperity, and in happiness. The thirteen States have grown to be thirty-one, with relations reaching to Europe on the one side, and on the other to the distant realms of Asia.

I am deeply sensible of the immense responsibility

which the present magnitude of the Republic, and the diversity and multiplicity of its interests, devolves upon me; the alleviation of which, so far as relates to the immediate conduct of the public business, is, first, in my reliance on the wisdom and patriotism of the two Houses of Congress; and, secondly, in the directions afforded me by the principles of public polity affirmed by our fathers of the epoch of 1798, sanctioned by long experience, and onsecrated anew by the overwhelming voice of the people f the United States.

Recurring to these principles, which constitute the or-

ganic basis of union, we perceive that, vast as are the functions and the duties of the Federal Government, vested in or entrusted to its three great departments, the legisintive, executive, and judicial, yet the substantive power, the popular force, and the large capacities for social and material development, exist in the respective States, which, all being of themselves well constituted Republics, as they preceded, so they alone are capable of maintaining and perpetuating the American Union. The Federal Governent has its appropriate line of action in the specific and limited powers conferred on it by the constitution, chiefly as to those things in which the States have a common interest in their relations to one another and to foreign Governments; while the great mass of interests which belong to cultivated men, the ordinary business of life, the springs of industry, all the diversified personal and domestic affairs of society, rest securely upon the general reserved powers of the people of the several States. There is the effective democracy of the nation, and there the

the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Congress. Happily I have no occasion to suggest any radical changes in the financial policy of the Government. Ours is almost, if not absolutely, the solitary Power of Christendom having a surplus revenue, drawn immediately from imposts on commerce, and therefore mea-sured by the spontaneous enterprise and national prosperity of the country, with such indirect relation to agr culture, manufactures, and the products of the earth and sea as to violate no constitutional doctrine, and yet vigorously promote the general welfare. Neither as to es'of the public treasure, nor as to the manner of keeping and managing it, does any grave controversy nov evail, there being a general acquiescence in the wisdom

of the present system.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit n detail the state of the public finances, and the condition of the various branches of the public service administered y that department of the Government.

The revenue of the country, levied almost insensibly the tax-payer, goes on from year to year increasing be ond-either the interests or the prospective wants of the overnment.

At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, there remained in the Treasury a balance of fourteen mil-lion six hundred and thirty-two thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars. The public revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1853, amounted to fifty-eight million nine hundred and thirty-one thousand eight hundred and sixtyfive dollars from customs, and to two million four hundred and five thousand seven hundred and eight dollars from public lands and other miscellaneous sources, amounting together to sixty-one million three hundred and thirtyseven thousand five hundred and seventy-four dollars; while the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to forty-three million five hundred and fifty-four thou sand two hundred and sixty-two dollars; leaving a balance of thirty-two million four hundred and twenty-five thou sand four hundred and forty-seven dollars of receipts above expenditures.

This fact of increasing surplus in the Treasury came the subject of anxious consideration at a very early period of my Administration, and the path of duty in regard to it seemed to me obvious and clear, namely: first to apply the surplus revenue to the discharge of the pub-, so far as it could judiciously be done; and, secondly, to devise means for the gradual reduction of the revenue to the standard of the public exigencies.

Of these objects the first has been in the course of ac omplishment, in a manner and to a degree highly satisfactory. The amount of the public debt, of all classes, was on the fourth of March, 1853, sixty-nine million one hundred and ninety thousand and thirty-seven dollars; payments on account of which have been made, since that eriod, to the amount of twelve million seven hundred and leaving unpaid, and in the continuous course of liquida-tion, the sum of fifty-six million four hundred and eightysix thousand seven hundred and eight dollars. payments, although made at the market price of the respective classes of stocks, have been effected readily, and to the general advantage of the Treasury, and have at the same time proved of signal utility in the relief they have incidentally afforded to the money market and to

the industrial and commercial pursuits of the country.

The second of the above-mentioned objects, that of the eduction of the tariff, is of great importance, and the plan suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury, which is the duties on certain articles, and to add to the free list many articles now taxed, and especially such as enter into manufactures, and are not largely, or at all, produced in the country, is commended to your candid and areful consideration.

You will find in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury also abundant proof of the entire adequacy of the present fiscal system to meet all the requirements of the public service, and that, while properly administered, it operates to the advantage of the community in ordinary usiness relations.

I respectfully ask your attention to sundry suggestions f improvements in the settlement of accounts, especially s regards the large sums of outstanding arrears due to the Government, and of other reforms in the administra tive action of his department, which are indicated by the Secretary; as also to the progress made in the con tion of marine hospitals, custom-houses, and of a new mint in California and assay office in the city of New York, heretofore provided for by Congress; and also to the emi-nently successful progress of the Coast Survey and of the Lighthouse Board

Among the objects meriting your attention will be important recommendations from the Secretaries of War and Navy. I am fully satisfied that the navy of the United States is not in a condition of strength and efficiency commensurate with the magnitude of our commercial and American States are deeply interested in this attempt to other interests, and commend to your especial attention secure the free navigation of the Amazon, and it is reathe Navy. I respectfully submit that the army, which, the advantages of free commercial intercourse among na-tions are better understood, more liberal views are gene-rally entertained as to the common rights of all to the free use of those means which nature has provided for in-ternational communication. To these more liberal and olicy, and remove all unnecessary restrictions upon the | continent; the necessity of which will appear in the com

In the administration of the Post Office Department for you that the Republic of Paraguay and the Argentine the fiscal year ending June 30, 1853, the gross expendi-Confederation have yielded to the liberal policy still resisted by Brazil, in regard to the navigable rivers within their respective territories. Treaties embracing this sub- receipts during the same period five million nine hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-four ernments, which will be submitted to the Senate at the dollars; showing that the current revenue failed to meet the current expenses of the Department by the sum of two million forty-two thousand and thirty-two dollars. The causes which, under the present postal system and laws, led inevitably to this result, are fully explained by the report of the Postmaster General; one great cause being the enormous rates the Department has been compelled to pay for mail service rendered by railroad companies.

The exhibit in the report of the Postmaster General of the income and expenditures by mail steamers will be found peculiarly interesting, and of a character to demand the immediate action of Congress.

Numerous and flagrant frauds upon the Pension Bureau have been brought to light within the last year, and, in some instances, merited punishments inflicted; but, unfortunately, in others, guilty parties have escaped, not through the want of sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction, but in consequence of the provisions of limitation in the existing laws. From the nature of these claims, the remoteness of the

ribunals to pass upon them, and the mode in which the proof is, of necessity, furnished, temptations to crime have been greatly stimulated by the obvious difficulties of detection. The defects in the law upon this subject are apparent, and so fatal to the ends of justice, that your early action relating to it is most desirable. During the last fiscal year nine million eight hundred

and nineteen thousand four hundred and eleven acres of the public lands have been surveyed, and ten million three hundred and sixty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-one acres brought into market. period the sales by public purchase and private entry amounted to one million eighty-three thousand four hundred and ninety-five acres; located under military bounty land warrants, six million one hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty acres; located under other certificates, nine thousand four hundred and twenty-se ven acres; ceded to the States as swamp lands, sixteen million six hundred and eighty-four thousand two hunired and fifty-three acres; selected for railroad and other jects, under acts of Congress, one million four hundred and twenty-seven thousand four hundred and fifty-seven eres. Total amount of lands disposed of within the fiscal year, twenty-five million three hundred and forty-six thouand nine hundred and ninety-two acres; which is an increase in quantity sold and located under land warrants and grants of twelve million two hundred and thirty-one thousand eight hundred and eighteen acres over the fiscal year immediately preceding. The quantity of land sold during the second and third quarters of 1852 was three undred and thirty-four thousand four hundred and fiftyone acres. The amount received therefor was six hun red and twenty-three thousand six hundred and eightyeven dellars. The quantity sold the second and third quarters of the year 1853 was one million six hundred and nine thousand nine hundred and nineteen acres; and the amount received therefor two million two hundred and twenty-six thousand eight hundred and seventy-six dollars.

The whole number of land warrants issued under exist ig laws, prior to the 30th of September last, was two undred and sixty-six thousand and forty-two; of which there were outstanding at that date sixty-six the nine hundred and forty-seven. The quantity of land reuired to satisfy these outstanding warrants is four mil-ion seven hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hun-

ired and twenty acres.

Warrants have been issued to 30th of September last. under the act of 11th February, 1847, calling for twelve million eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand two hun-dred and eighty acres; under acts of September 28, 1850, and March 22, 1852, calling for twelve million five hundred and five thousand three hundred and sixty acres; making a total of twenty-five million three hundred and eighty-four thousand six hundred and forty acres.

It is believed that experience has verified the wisdom nd justice of the present system with regard to the pub-

lie domain in most essential particulars. You will perceive, from the report of the Secretary of the Interior, that opinions which have often been expressed in relation to the operation of the land system as not ship-of-war St. Louis, arrived at Smyrna, and, after in quiring into the circumstances of the case, came to the consequences which flow from the naoouelusion that Koszta was entitled to the protection of ture of the Federal Government, the primary one is thet

Regarding our public domain as chiefly valuable to provide homes for the industrious and enterprising, I am not prepared to recommend any essential change in the land system, except by modifications in favor of the actual settler, and an extension of the pre-emption principle in cer-tain cases, for reasons and on grounds which will be fully developed in the reports to be laid before you.

Congress, representing the proprietors of the territorial domain, and charged especially with power to dispose of territory belonging to the United States, has, for a long course of years, beginning with the administration of Mr. Jefferson, exercised the power to construct roads within the Tarritorian. the Territories; and there are so many and obvious distinctions between this exercise of power and that of making roads within the States, that the former has never been considered subject to such objections as apply to the latter, and such may now be considered the settled construction of the power of the Federal Government upon the subject.

Numerous applications have been, and no doubt will ontinue to be, made for grants of land in aid of the construction of railways. It is not believed to be within the intent and meaning of the Constitution that the power to dispose of the public domain should be used otherwise than might be expected from a prudent proprietor, and, therefore, that grants of land to aid in the construction of roads should be restricted to cases where it would be for the interest of a proprietor, under like circumstances, thus to contribute to the construction of these works. For the practical operation of such grants thus far, in advancthe interests of the States in which the works are located, and at the same time the substantial interests of all the other States, by enhancing the value and promoting the rapid sale of the public domain, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior. A careful examination, however, will show that this experience is the result of a just discrimination, and will be far from affording encouragement to a reckless or indiscriminate exten ion of the principle.

I commend to your favorable consideration the men of

genius of our country, who, by their inventions and discoveries in science and art, have contributed largely to the improvements of the age, without, in many instances, ecuring for themselves any thing like an adequate reward. For many interesting details upon this subject I refer you to the appropriate reports, and especially urge upon your early attention the apparently slight but really important modifications of existing laws therein suggested. The liberal spirit which has so long marked the action of Congress in relation to the District of Columbia will, I have no doubt, continue to be manifested.

The erection of an asylum for the insane of the District of Celumbia, and of the army and navy of the United States, has been somewhat retarded by the great demand for materials and labor during the past summer; but full preparation for the reception of patients, before the return of another winter, is anticipated; and there is the best reason to believe, from the plan and contemplated arrangements which have been devised, with the large experience furnished within the last few years in relation to the nature and treatment of the disease, that it will prove an asylum indeed to this most helpless and afflicted class of sufferers, and stand as a noble monument of wis-

iom and mercy. Under the acts of Congress of August 31, 1852, and of March 3, 1853, designed to secure for the cities of Washington and Georgetown an abundant supply of good and wholesome water, it became my duty to examine the report and plans of the engineer who had charge of the surveys under the act first named. The best if not the only plan calculated to secure permanently the object sought was that which contemplates taking the water from the Great Falls of the Potomac, and consequently I gave to it my approval.

For the progress and present condition of this important work, and for its demands, so far as appropriations are concerned, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of War.

The present judicial system of the United States has now been in operation for so long a period of time, and has, in its general theory and much of its details, become so familiar to the country, and acquired so entirely the public confidence, that, if modified in any respect, it should only be in those particulars which may adapt it to the increased extent, population, and legal business of the United States. In this relation the organization of the courts is now confessedly inadequate to the duties to be performed by them; in consequence of which the States of Florida, Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, and California, and districts of other States, are in effect excluded from the full benefits of the general system by the functions of the circuit court being devolved on the district judges in all those States, or parts of States.

The spirit of the constitution and a due regard to tice require that all the States of the Union should be placed on the same footing in regard to the judicial tribunals. I therefore commend to your consideration this important subject, which, in my judgment, demands the speedy action of Congress. I will present to you, if deemed desirable, a plan, which I am prepared to recommend, for the enlargement and modification of the pre-

sent judicial system.

The act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Inand other persons therein designated should constitute ament" by that name, and that the members should hold stated and special meetings for the supervision of the affairs of the institution. The organization not having taken place, it seemed to me proper that i should be effected without delay. This has been done; and an occasion was thereby presented for inspecting the condition of the institution, and appreciating its successful progress thus far, and its high promise of great and

I have omitted to ask your favorable consideration for the estimates of works of a local character in twentyseven of the thirty-one States, amounting to one million seven hundred and fifty-four thousand five hundred dollars, because, independently of the grounds which have so often been urged against the application of the Federal revenue for works of this character, inequality with con-sequent injustice is inherent in the nature of the proposition, and because the plan has proved entirely inade

quate to the accomplishment of the objects sought.

The subject of internal improvements, claiming alike
the interest and good will of all, has nevertheless been the basis of much political discussion, and has stood as a deep graven line of division between statesmen of eminent ability and patriotism. The rule of strict construc-tion of all powers delegated by the States to the General Government has arrayed itself, from time to time, against the rapid progress of expenditures from the National Treasury on works of a local character within the States. Memorable as an epoch in the history of this subject is the message of President Jackson of the 27th of May, 1830, which met the system of internal improvements its comparative infancy; but so rapid had been its growth that the projected appropriations in that year for works of this character had risen to the alarming amount of

more than one hundred millions of dollars. In that message the President admitted the difficulty of bringing back the operations of the Government to the construction of the constitution set up in 1798, and marked it as an admonitory proof of the necessity of guarding that instrument with sleepless vigilance against the authority of precedents which had not the sanction of its

most plainly defined powers.

Our Government exists under a written compact tween sovereign States, uniting for specific objects, and with specific grants to their general agent. If, then, in the progress of its administration there have been departures from the terms and intent of the compact, it is, and will ever be, proper to refer back to the fixed standard which our fathers left us, and to make a stern effort to conform our action to it. It would seem that the fact of principle having been resisted from the first by many of the wisest and most patriotic men of the republic, and a policy having provoked constant strife, without arriving at a conclusion which can be regarded as satisfactory to its most earnest advocates, should suggest the inquiry whether there may not be a plan likely to be crowned by happier results. Without perceiving any sound distinction, or intending to assert any principle as opposed to improvements needed for the protection of i ternal commerce, which does not equally apply to im-provements upon the seaboard for the protection of foreign merce, I submit to you whether it may not be safely anticipated that, if the policy were once settled against appropriations by the General Government for local improvements for the benefit of commerce, localities requiring expenditures would not, by modes and means clearly legitimate and proper, raise the fund necessary for such constructions as the safety or other interests of

their commerce might require.

If that can be regarded as a system which, in the experience of more than thirty years, has at no time so commanded the public judgment as to give it the character of a settled policy—which, though it has produced some works of conceded importance, has been attended

which are regarded by all good citizens with sincere in-terest, I have deemed it my duty to ask at your hands a deliberate reconsideration of the question, with a hope that, animated by a desire to promote the permanent and

of local enterprise, the exciting of vain hopes, and the disappointment of cherished expectations.

In expending the appropriations made by the last Congress, several cases have arisen in relation to works for the improvement of harbors which involve questions as to the right of soil and jurisdiction, and have threatened conflict between the authority of the State and General Governments. The right to construct a breakwater, jetty, or dam, would seem, necessarily, to carry with it the power to protect and preserve such constructions. This can only be effectually done by having jurisdiction over the soil. But no clause of the Constitution is found on which to rest the claim of the United States to exercise jurisdiction over the soil of a State, except that conferred by the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution. It is, then, submitted whether, in all cases where constructions are to be erected by the General Gov-ernment, the right of soil should not first be obtained, and legislative provision be made to cover all such cases.

For the progress made in the construction of roads within the Territories, as provided for in the appropriations of the last Congress, I refer you to the report of the

Secretary of War.

There is one subject of a domestic nature, which, from its intrinsic importance, and the many interesting questions of future policy which it involves, cannot fail to receive your early attention. I allude to the means of comcation, by which different parts of the wide expanse of our country are to be placed in closer connexion for purposes both of defence and commercial intercourse, and more especially such as appertain to the communica-tion of those great divisions of the Union which lie on the

opposite sides of the Rocky Mountains.

That the Government has not been unmindful of this heretofore is apparent from the aid it has afforded, through appropriations for mail facilities and other pur-poses. But the general subject will now present itself under aspects more imposing and more purely national, by reason of the surveys ordered by Congress, and now in the process of completion, for communication by railway across the continent, and wholly within the limits of the

The power to declare war, to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, and to call forth the militia to execute the laws, suppress insurrections, and re-pel invasions, was conferred upon Congress, as means to provide for the common defence, and to protect a territory and a population now wide-spread and vastly multiplied. As incidental to and indispensable for the exercise of this power, it must sometimes be necessary to construct mili-tary roads and protect harbors of refuge. To appropriations by Congress for such objects no sound objection can be raised. Happily for our country, its peaceful policy and rapidly increasing population impose upon us no ur-gent necessity for preparation, and leave but few track-less deserts between assailable points and a patriotic people ever ready and generally able to protect them. These necessary links the enterprise and energy of our people are steadily and boldly struggling to supply. All experience affirms that, wherever private enterprise will avail, it is most wise for the General Government to leave to that and individual watchfulness the location and exe cution of all means of communication.

The surveys before alluded to were designed to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a rail-road from the river Mississippi to the Pacific ocean. Par-ties are now in the field making explorations where previous examinations had not supplied sufficient data, and where there was the best reason to hope the object sough might be found. The means and time both being limited, it is not to be expected that all the accurate knowledge desired would be obtained, but it is hoped that much and important information will be added to the stock previ-ously possessed, and that partial if not full reports of the surveys ordered will be received in time for transmission to the two Houses of Congress, on or before the first Monday in February next, as required by the act of appropri ation. The magnitude of the enterprise contempl has aroused, and will doubtless continue to excite, a very general interest throughout the country. In its politic is commercial, and its military bearings it has varied, great, and increasing claims to consideration. The heavy expense, the great delay, and, at times, fatality attending travel by either of the isthmus routes, have de-monstrated the advantage which would result from intererritorial communication by such safe and rapid mean

as a railroad would supply.

These difficulties, which have been encountered in a period of peace, would be magnified and still further in-creased in time of war. But whilst the embarrassments already encountered, and others under new continger cies to be anticipated, may serve strikingly to exhibit the importance of such a work, neither these, not all considerations combined, can have an appreciable va-lue when weighed against the obligation strictly to ad-here to the Constitution, and faithfully to execute the powers it confers. Within this limit and to the extent of ne interest of the Government involved, it wo both expedient and proper, if an economical and practi-cable route shall be found, to aid by all constitutional means in the construction of a road which will unite by speedy transit the populations of the Pacific and Atlantic States. To guard against misconce marked that, although the power To guard against misconception, it should be reto construct or aid in the construction of a road within the limits of a territory is not embarrassed by that question of jurisdiction which would arise within the limits of a State, it is nevertheless held to be of doubtful power, and more than doubtful deneral Government to undertake to administer the afairs of a railroad, a canal, or other similar construction, and therefore that its connexion with a work of this cha racter should be incidental rather than primary. I will only add, at present, that, fully appreciating the magnitude of the subject, and solicitous that the Atlantic and Pacific shores of the Republic may be bound together by inseparable ties of common interest, as well as of common fealty and attachment to the Union, I shall be disposed. so far as my own action is concerned, to follow the lights of the Constitution, as expounded and illustrated by those whose opinions and expositions constitute the stan, dard of my political faith in regard to the powers of the Federal Government. It is, I trust, not necessary to say hat no grandeur of enterprise and no present urgent inlucement promising popular favor will lead me to gard those lights, or to depart from that path which exerience has proved to be safe, and which is now radiant with the glow of prosperity and legitimate constitutional We can afford to wait, but we cannot afford to verlook the ark of our security. It is no part of my purpose to give prominence to any

bject which may properly be regarded as set at rest by the deliberate judgment of the people. But, while the present is bright with promise and the future full of deand and inducement for the exercise of active intelligence, the past can never be without useful lessons of adonition and instruction. If its dangers serve not as beacons, they will evidently fail to fulfil the object of a wise design. When the grave shall have closed over all who are now endeavoring to meet the obligations of duty, the year 1850 will be recurred to as a period filled with anxious apprehension. A successful war had just terminated; peace brought with it a vast augmentation of territory; disturbing questions arose, bearing upon the domestic institutions of one portion of the Confederacy, and involving the constitutional rights of the States. But, notwithstanding differences of opinion and sentiment which then existed in relation to details and specific provisions, the acquiescence of distinguished citizens, whose devotion to the Union can never be doubted, has given renewed vigor to our institutions and restored a sense of repose and security to the public mind through-out the Confederacy. That this repose is to suffer no shock during my official term, if I have power to avert it, those who placed me here may be assured. The wisdom of men who knew what independence cost, who had put all at stake upon the issue of the revolutionary struggle disposed of the subject to which I refer in the only way consistent with the union of these States, and with the march of power and prosperity which has made us what we are. It is a significant fact that, from the adoption of the Constitution until the officers and soldiers of the revolution had passed to their graves, or through the infirmities of age and wounds had ceased to participate actively in public affairs, there was not merely a quiet ac-quiescence in but a prompt vindication of the constituonal rights of the States. The reserved powers were scrupulously respected. No statesman put forth the nar-row views of casuists to justify interference and agitation. but the spirit of the compact was regarded as sacred in the eye of honor, and indispensable for the great experiment of civil liberty, which, environed by inherent d culties, was yet borne forward in apparent weakness by a power superior to all obstacles. There is no condemnation which the voice of freedom will not pronounce upon us should we prove faithless to this great trust. While men inhabiting different parts of this vast continent can no more be expected to hold the same opinions or entertain the same sentiments than every variety of climate or sei can be expected to furnish the same agricultural pro ducts, they can unite in a common object and sustain common principles essential to the maintenance of that with an expenditure quite disproportionate to their value, and has resulted in squandering large sums upon objects. The gallant men of the South and the North could stand together during the struggle of the Revolution; they could stand together in the more trying period which have answered no valuable purpose, the interests of all the States require it to be abandoned, unless hopes may be indulged for the future which find no warrant in the past.

With an anxious desire for the gers of the field, so their united wisdom proved equal to the greater task of founding upon a deep and broad basis institutions which it has been our privilege to en-joy and will ever be our most sacred duty to sustain. It is but the feeble expression of a faith strong and universal to say, that their sons, whose blood mingled so often upon the same field during the war of 1812, and who have that, animated by a desire to promote the permanent and substantial interests of the country, your wisdom may prove equal to the task of devising and maturing a plan which, applied to this subject, may promise something better than constant strife, the suspension of the powers uplifted for the vindication of self-government.

this Government, and took energetic and prompt mea- duty of administering with integrity and fidelity the high million two hundred and eighty-nine thousand four hun- of local enterprise, the exciting of vain hopes, and the I have thus briefly presented such suggestions as seem to me especially worthy of your consideration. In pro-viding for the present, you can hardly fail to avail your-selves of the light which the experience of the past casts

The growth of our population has now brought us. in upon the future. the destined career of our national history, to a point at which it well behooves us to expand our vision over the

vast prospective.

The successive decennial returns of the census since the adoption of the Constitution have revealed a law of the adoption of the Constitution have revealed a law of steady progressive development, which may be stated, in general terms, as a duplication every quarter-century. Carried forward from the point already reached for only a short period of time as applicable to the existence of a nation, this law of progress, if unchecked, will bring us to almost incredible results. A large allowance for a diminished proportional effect of emigration would not very materially reduce the estimate, while the increased average duration of human life known to have would not very materially reduce the estimate, while the increased average duration of human life, known to have already resulted from the scientific and hygienic improvements of the past fifty years, will tend to keep up through the next fifty, or perhaps hundred, the same ratio of growth which has been thus revealed in our past progress; and to the influence of these causes may be added the influx of laboring masses from eastern Asia to the Pacific side of our possessions, together with the probable accession of the populations already existing in other parts of our hemisphere, which, within the period in question, will feel, with yearly increasing force, the naparts of our hemisphere, which, within the period in question, will feel, with yearly increasing force, the natural attraction of so vast, powerful, and prosperous a confederation of self-governing republics, and will seek the privilege of being admitted within its safe and happy bosom, transferring with themselves, by a peaceful and healthy process of incorporation, spacious regions of virgin and exuberant seil, which are destined to swarm with the fast-growing and fast-appraading willies.

gin and exuberant sell, which are destined to swarm with the fast-growing and fast-spreading millions of our race. These considerations seem fully to justify the presump-tion that the law of population above stated will con-tinue to act with undiminished effect through at least the next half century; and that thousands of persons who have already arrived at maturity, and are now exercising the rights of freemen, will close their eyes on the specta-cle of more than one hundred millions of population em-braced within the majestic proportions of the American Union. It is not merely as an interesting topic of spe-culation that I present these views for your consideration. They have important practical bearings upon all the political duties we are called upon to perform. Heretofore our system of Government has worked on what may be termed a miniature scale, in comparison with the develop-ment which it must thus assume within a future so near at hand as scarcely to be beyond the present of the exist-

ing generation.

It is evident that a confederation so vast and so varied both in numbers and in territorial extent, in habits and in interests, could only be kept in national cohesion by the strictest fidelity to the principles of the Constitution as understood by those who have adhered to the most restricted construction of the powers granted by the people and the States. Interpreted and applied according to those principles, the great compact adapts itself with healthy ease and freedom to an unlimited extension of that benign system of federative self-government, of which it is our glorious and I trust immortal charter. Let us, then, with redoubled vigilance be on our guard against yielding to the temptation of the exercise of deubtful powers, even under the pressure of the motives of conceded temporary advantage and apparent temporary expediency.

The minimum of federal government, compatible with

the maintenance of national unity and efficient action in our relations with the rest of the world, should afford the rule and measure of construction of our powers under the general clauses of the Constitution. A spirit of strict deference to the sovereign rights and dignity of every State, rather than a disposition to subordinate the States into a provincial relation to the central authority, should characterize all our exercise of the respective powers temporarily vested in us as a sacred trust from the generous confidence of our constituents.

In like manner, as a manifestly indispensable condition of the perpetuation of the Union, and of the realization of that magnificent national future adverted to, does the duty become yearly stronger and clearer upon us, as citizens of the several States, to cultivate a fraternal and affectionate spirit, language, and conduct, in regard to other States, and in relation to the varied interests, institutions, and habits of sentiment and opinion which may respec-tively characterize them. Mutual forbearance, respect, and non-interference in our personal action as citizens and an enlarged exercise of the most liberal principles of comity in the public dealings of State with State, whether in legislation or in the execution of laws, are the means to perpetuate that confidence and fraternity, the decay of which a mere political union on so vast a scale could not long survive.

In still another point of view is an important practica duty suggested by this consideration of the magnitude of dimensions, to which our political system, with its cor-responding machinery of government, is so rapidly ex-panding. With increased vigilance does it require us to cultivate the cardinal virtues of public frugality and offi-cial integrity and purity. Public affairs ought to be so conducted that a settled conviction shall pervade the en-tire Union that nothing short of the highest tone and standard of public morality marks every part of the ad-ministration and legislation of the General Government. and progress may give it, continue more and more deep rooted in the love and confidence of the people.

That wise economy, which is as far removed from parsimony as from corrupt and corrupting extravagance; that single regard for the public good, which will frown upon all attempts to approach the Treasury with insidi-ous projects of private interest cleaked under public pretexts; that sound fiscal administration, which, in the legislative department, guards against the dangerous tempations incident to overflowing revenue, and, in the executive, maintains an unsleeping watchfulness against the tendency of all national expenditure to extravagance while they are admitted elementary political duties, may, I trust, be deemed as properly adverted to and urged, in view of the more impressive sense of that necessity which is directly suggested by the considerations now presented.

Since the adjournment of Congress, the Vice President of the United States has passed from the scenes of earth, without having entered upon the duties of the station to which he had been called by the voice of his countrymen. Having occupied, almost continuously, for more than thirty years, a seat in one or the other of the two Houses of Congress, and having by his singular purity and wis-dom secured unbounded confidence and universal respect, his failing health was watched by the nation with painful solicitude. His loss to the country, under all the circumstances, has been justly regarded as irreparable.

In compliance with the act of Congress of March 2, 1853, the oath of office was administered to him on the 24th of that month, at Ariadne estate, near Matenzas, in the Island of Cuba; but his strength gradually declined, and was hardly sufficient to enable him to return to his home in Alabama, where, on the eighteenth day of April, in the most calm and peaceful way, his long and eminent ly useful career was terminated. Entertaining unlimited confidence in your intelligent

and patriotic devotion to the public interest, and being conscious of no motives on my part which are not insepa rable from the honor and advancement of my country, I hope it may be my privilege to deserve and secure, not only your cordial co-operation in great public measures, but also those relations of mutual confidence and regard which it is always so desirable to cultivate between members of co-ordinate branches of the Government. FRANKLIN PIERCE

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 5, 1858.

VEGETABLES AND SEEDS FROM CALIFORNIA

The following-named vegetables and seeds were recently sent from San Francisco, through Mr. James Mc-Guine, of this city, and presented to the United States Patent Office for exhibition:

One sweet potato, weighing 6 pounds, raised by George A. Lloyd an Jose. One potato, weighing 6 pounds, raised by J. M. Horner, San Jose. Two potatoes, weighing 4 pounds each, raised by E. T. Crane & Bro. one potatos, weighing 4½ pounds, raised by J. B. Hill, Pajora valley.

Two potatoes, weighing 3 and 3½ pounds, raised by E. L. Beard, San

ose. Two onions, weighing 214 pounds each, raised by Wm. N. Thompson, queoi valley.

One onion, weighing 4½ pounds, raised by J. B. Hill, Pajora valley.

One onion, weighing 2 pounds, raised by T. P. Robb. Sacramento

or onion, weighing 2 pounds, raised by J. M. Horner, San Jose.

Sample of barley, from the farm of J. B. Hill, crop of 90 acres, averaging 140 23-50 bushels to the acre, each bushel weighing 50 pounds.

Sample of wheat, volunteer, raised from Oregon white wheat, not liable to rust, yields 55 bushels to the acre.

Sample of Australian wheat, raised by E. L. Beard, San Jose.

Sample of Australian wheat, raised by James Morrison, Oakland, Contra Coxta.

alley. Sample of Chili white wheat, raised by M. G. Poisey, Oregon Ter

ritory.
Sample of burley, from the farm of Messrs. Steetman & White, Pulger Ranche.

Sample of Darley, from the farm of Messrs. Steetman & White, Pulger Ranche.
Sample of Oregon red wheat, of fourteen weeks, weighs 62 pounds to
the bushel, from M. G. Foisey, Oregon.
Sample of volunteer wheat, in ear, from J. M. Horner, San Jose.
Sample of Indib hald wheat, in ear, from J. M. Horner, San Jose.
Sample of Chili hald wheat, in ear, from J. M. Horner, San Jose.
Sample of volunteer onts, from Dr. Samuel Murdoch, growing 10 feet
0 inches in height.
Sample of wheat and barley, in ear, from E. L. Beard, San Jose.
Sample of wheat and barley, in ear, from George A. Lloyd, San Jose.
Average sample of a lot of twelve bushels, raised from three reed
polatoes, by Dr. Samuel Murdoch, San Jose.
Average sample of San Jose potatoes, from J. M. Horner.

SCHOOL BOOKS of every description, for sale che